SUB A1

1. A method of providing electronic television program guide information to a user over a telecommunications network including the capability of determining whether the user's connection to the network is in an on-hook or off-hook condition, the method comprising the steps of:

storing television program guide information at a provider site on the network;

transmitting the information over the network;

receiving the information at a user site when the user's connection to the network is in an on-hook condition; and

storing the received information at the user site.

2. The method of claim 1, further including the step of displaying the information at the user site.

3. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

encoding the information at the provider site prior to transmitting; and

decoding the information at the user site.

4. The method of claim 1, further including the step of simultaneously transmitting the information to a plurality of user sites.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of delivering the information to a user site over the network in wireless fashion.

6. The method of claim 1, including the step of repeating the transmission of the information to maximize the amount of information delivered to the user in the event of an off-hook or other network interruption.

7. The method of claim 1, including the steps of:

transmitting the information in the form of serial data packets; and

reconstructing the packets at the user site.

8. The method of claim 1, including the steps of:

encrypting the information prior to transmission; and

decrypting the information at the user site.

9. The method of claim 1, further including the step of filtering out voice or data signals received over the network when the user's connection is in an off-hook condition.

SUB A21

10. A system for providing information to a user in electronic form over a telecommunications network, the network including the capability of determining whether the user's connection to the network is in an on-hook or off-hook condition, the system comprising:

an information provider including a database for storing the information and an interface enabling requested information to be delivered over the telecommunications network; and

a user site including a storage device and a splitter interfaced to the network for routing the information from the provider to the storage device when the user's connection to the network is in an on-hook condition.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the information relates to a television program.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the information is television program schedule information.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein:

the user site further includes a television display; and

the storage device is interfaced to the television display enabling the user to view the program schedule information.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein:

the information is delivered in encoded form; and

the user site includes a decoder to decode the information.

15. The system of claim 10, further including:

a plurality of user sites, each equipped with a splitter interfaced to the network for receiving the information from the provider.

16. The system of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the network is wireless.

17. The system of claim 10, wherein the transmission of the information is repeated to maximize the amount of information delivered to the user in the event of an off-hook or other network interruption.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the information is transmitted in the form of serial data packets which are reconstructed at the user's site.

19. The system of claim 10, further including circuitry to the user's site for filtering out voice or data signals received over the network when the user's connection is in an off-hook conditions.

20. The system of claim 10, wherein the information is encrypted using a time-dependent code.